

“Come and See” Phase 1b (level 2) New & Growing Believers (Covenant Group) Small Group Lessons

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“Come And See” Level 2 - Small Group Lesson Format

Use this basic format for leading a “Come and See” level 2 “Covenant” small groups.

Sharing Life (Fellowship)

The first few minutes of the meeting are usually reserved for the sharing of life.

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce guests.
3. Share about what has happened throughout the previous week.

Seeking God (Worship)

Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Use the Prayer Focus now or at the close of the group meeting.

Growing Spiritually (Nurture)

Bible Reference: _____

[Use any of the following small group lesson discussion guides here.]

Serving Others (Outreach)

God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. Spend time planning how your group will work together to serve others as a demonstration of God’s unconditional love.

“Come And See” Level 2 - Small Group Lesson (Sample)

Title: Christian Fellowship

Sharing Life (Fellowship)

The first few minutes of the meeting are usually reserved for the sharing of life.

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce guests.
3. Share about what has happened throughout the previous week.

Seeking God (Worship)

Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Use the Prayer Focus now or at the close of the group meeting.

Growing Spiritually (Nurture)

Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:27

1. Why is Christian fellowship important?
2. Why is human fellowship important? (Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
3. What is the purpose of meeting together as believers? (Hebrews 10:24, 25)
4. Why is Christian fellowship important to you?
5. Each believer is given a different but important place in the spiritual body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). Who gives the members their various functions? (1 Corinthians 12:18)
6. What is His desire? (1 Corinthians 12:25)
7. What attitudes lead to disharmony in the body? (1 Corinthians 12:15-16, 21)
8. Are any of the members of the body unnecessary? (1 Corinthians 12:20-25)
9. If you cut a finger how does it affect your body? How does this illustration relate to the body of Christ when one of its parts is hurting? (1 Corinthians 12:26)
10. What will you do this week to connect with other Christians?

Serving Others (Outreach)

God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. Spend time planning how your group will work together to serve others as a demonstration of God's unconditional love.

A FOUR LESSON STUDY OF MARRIAGE

Building Your Marriage

Constructing a Good Relationship

Genesis 2:24

Lesson 1

1. What does it take to build a good marriage?
2. Read Genesis 2:24. Once a couple has received each other as God's gift (Genesis 2:18-23), they must leave their parents. How does a couple establish and maintain proper independence from their parents?
3. What are some ways couples do not leave their parents?
4. What can happen in a marriage when parents try to hold on and the son or daughter remain dependent on their parents rather than their mate?
5. According to Genesis 2:24, what should happen after the man leaves his father and mother?
6. What insights does Matthew 19:6 add to your understanding to becoming "one flesh"?
7. Is becoming "one flesh" something that happens at a point in time or an on-going process? Or is it both?
8. Physical intimacy obviously contributes to achieving oneness in a marriage. Sexual relations by themselves are no guarantee that oneness will result. What makes the difference?
9. Why is acceptance of and commitment to your mate important in achieving openness and oneness in your relationship?
10. What is one area of your marriage where you could do some remodeling in order to improve your oneness?

Building Your Marriage

Servant Leadership

Ephesians 5:23-29

Lesson 2

1. What various roles must you fulfill to be a success in society today?
2. What kinds of preparation, schooling, training courses, books, etc. did you have to have for filling these roles?
3. In order to write a biblical job description for being a husband who serves as Christ intends, read Ephesians 5:23-29. How is a husband's position illustrated?
4. What might Paul be describing when he says that the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church? (5:23)
5. What are the responsibilities involved in being "the head" of a group of people or an organization?
6. What additional insights do you gain about leadership from Mark 10:42-45? Which of these concepts is the most challenging to you as you think of your leadership in your home?
7. What is servant leadership?
8. How would becoming a "servant" leader change a man who tends to be passive and who does not accept his responsibilities? How would it change a man who is dictatorial and refuses to listen to his wife?
9. How would becoming a "servant" leader affect the ability of a wife to support her husband's leadership?
10. List 1-3 practical ways in which "servant" leadership can be demonstrated in your relationship in the coming weeks.

Building Your Marriage

Loving and Caring

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Lesson 3

1. What factors in society and in marriage make it difficult to be a good husband or wife?
2. What are your greatest struggles in being a good mate?
3. According to Ephesians 5:25-27, why is loving unselfishly so important?
4. How does this kind of love, this denial of self, communicate love to the wife?
5. How is following the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 meaningful to you?
6. Which of these descriptions of love do you need most to help build your marriage? (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)
7. How would you make self-denial a willing act of love and not a grudging duty?
8. What does Ephesians 5:28-33 add to your view of your responsibility to your mate?
9. Why is caring so important?
10. What "elements of nourishment" does your mate need from you to help them grow?
11. How can you show your spouse that you esteem and value him/her?
12. Choose one act of unselfish loving or caring toward your mate that you agree to be accountable for this week.

Building Your Marriage

Building a Legacy

Psalm 78:3-8

Lesson 4

1. What comes to mind when you think of a "heritage" or "legacy"?
2. Read 2 Tim 1:5. Describe the heritage your parents left to you and the values it represents.
3. What legacy did Joshua desire for his descendants? (Joshua 24:14-15)
4. According to 3 John 4 and Psalm 78:3-8, you can leave spiritual as well as physical descendants. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2 and talk about how you can leave a spiritual legacy.
5. According to Deuteronomy 6:1-9, how do you leave a godly legacy with your children by your influence?
6. Your marriage should leave a legacy of love that will influence future generations. Describe what you want that legacy to be?
 1. Describe the gifts (spiritual and/or physical) you desire to leave to your children and grandchildren.
 2. Describe the legacy you desire to leave to your spiritual descendants; those you lead to Christ and disciple.

CHILDREN OF GOD

Children Of God

God Is Our Father

1. If God is our Father- what difference does that make to you? (*John 1:12*)
2. If God is our Father – what is our relationship to other Christians?
3. Who chose you to be in the family of God? (*Deuteronomy 14:2*)
4. What are some of the benefits of sonship and daughtership in the family in the following verses:
 - . *Romans 8:15*
 - . *II Corinthians 6:18*
 - . *Galatians 4:5-6*
5. As children of God, what is it we are to share with Christ, according to *Romans 8:17*?
6. As a member of the same family, what shall we do with any and all barriers that separate us from each other? (*Ephesians 2:14-22*)
7. How do we know we are a child of God, according to *Matthew 5:9*?
8. Contrast these two:

TROUBLE MAKER	PEACEMAKER
9. What are some changes you need to make in order to get in line with God’s will for you as a member of His family living in relationship with other members of the family?
10. How does a person know when they are in the family, according to *Romans 8:16*?
11. How can you know the children of God from the children of the devil, according to *I John 3:10*?
12. If God is your Father, what difference does it make? (*I John 3:1-3*)

Complete this sentence: this is what it means to me to be a child of god.

Children Of God God Our Heavenly Father

1. What difference does it make if God is my Father?
2. How do our thoughts compare to God's thoughts? (*Isaiah 55:8-9*) How do we get to know God's thoughts?
3. In the Old Testament they did not really know God as "Father". In The Sermon on the Mount alone, Jesus called God "Father" seventeen times. Why do you think Jesus commanded us to call God "Father?"
4. How has God become our Father?
 - . How and why did God create us? (*Isaiah 43:7*) As a parent, do you want your children to bring glory to you or shame? In sin, do we bring shame or glory to God?
 - . What plan did God use to bring us back into His family? (*Romans 5:8*)
5. What does the shedding of Jesus' blood have to do with the restoration of our self-worth? (*I John 3:1*)
6. **What difference does it make if God is my Father?**
7. How is it that we have this boldness to come to God and approach Him as our Father? (*John 14:6*)
8. What do you learn about the Fatherhood of God from the following verses:
 - . *Psalm 68:5*
 - . *Isaiah 64:8*
 - . *Matthew 6:9*
 - . *Matthew 7:11*
 - . *Romans 8:15*
 - . *I Peter 1:17*
9. Is God our Father in the past, present or future? (*Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 2:13; and Hebrews 3:8*)
10. Discuss the difference that it makes when God becomes our Father and we live in a loving relationship with Him as opposed to a dull religion of do's and don'ts – what difference does it make if God is your Father?
11. If God is our Father, what kind of life, as children of God, should we lead? Jesus teaches us to pray, "Hallowed be Thy Name." We can hallow God's name by serving and worshipping Him. What does the Bible say we are in *I Peter 2:9*?
12. If we become **priests**, with this special relationship with the Father, there are three offerings of sacrifice that we are to offer as priests.
 - . What is the first sacrifice that we are to bring? (*Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalm 50:23*)
 - . What is the second sacrifice we should offer? (*Philippians 4:18; Malachi 3:10*)
 - . What is the third sacrifice we should offer? (*Romans 12:1*)
 - . How can we present our bodies as a living sacrifice?
13. As children of God, how are we to live in victory? (*Galatians 5:1; James 4:7*)

Children Of God Privileges Of A Relationship With The Father

1. **What difference does it make if God is my heavenly Father?**
2. What kind of gifts does God want to give to you in your life? (*Matthew 7:11; James 1:17*) Make a list of the gifts that God desires to give you.
3. What is the most special gift that the Father God wants you to have? (*Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:8; John 16:7*) Do you have this special One who is God's choice gift for you?
4. How do we honor the Hallowed Name of our Father? How do we bring glory to Him? How do we fulfill our destiny? By His ingenious plan we have been created. By His love and precious blood of His Son, we have been restored as children and given a place in the Family. How do you bring glory to your Father God?
5. What do we learn about the Father from the parable of the Prodigal Son? What does this teach us about our relationship with God? (*Luke 15:23-24*)

Privilege No. 1 - Set free from fear

- a) How big a problem is fear in the life of an average person?
- b) What are some of the things that people fear the most?
- c) What does the Bible say about God's cure for the fear of death? (*I Corinthians 15:55*)
- d) What does the Bible have to say about our fear of future happenings called worry or anxiety? (*Matthew 6:25-34*)
- e) What has God given to us to help us stand up to our fears and overcome them? (*Timothy 1:7*)

Privilege No. 2 – Confidence in the face of adversity

- a) What happens to people when they lose their confidence?
- b) What is the promise we have in *Philippians 2:13*?
- c) What did the prophet, Jeremiah, learn when he was shut up in the deep pit in the courtyard of a prison and was afraid? (*Jeremiah 33:2-3*)
- d) What have we been promised in *Hebrews 13:5-6*?
- e) What is the source of our confidence? (*Philippians 4:13*)

Privilege No. 3 – Triumph over inferiority

- a) Have you ever felt inferior?
What have feelings of inferiority made you do or not do?
- b) How does low self-esteem affect a person's life?
- c) Where does destructive behavior come from?
- d) What is our greatest need?
- e) Through the blood of Jesus our self-esteem is brought back. (*Galatians 4:5*)

Children Of God

We Really Do Need Each Other

1. How does it make you feel to be a part of the family of God?
2. Who belongs to whom in the church family? (*Romans 12:5*) How then, are you to relate to other people in the family?
3. What are we to do in the family according to *Romans 15:5-7*?
4. Talk about this statement: “We really do need each other.” How is this true in the church family?
5. How important is **fellowship** in the church family? (*Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 1:9-10*)
6. What happens in a church family when people begin to pray together? (*Acts 4:31-35*)
7. What do these Scriptures teach us about getting together in the family?
 - . *Matthew 18:20*
 - . *Hebrews 10:25*
8. What three principles in the relationship in the family are we to practice according to *Romans 14:19-20*?
 - .
 - .
 - .
9. What kind of strife did the early Christians have? (*I Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Philippians 4:2*)
10. Read *Ephesians 4:3-6*. Does this mean that we have to always agree with one another? Explain
11. What are we to do in the family for one another in the following verses?
 - . *Hebrews 3:13*
 - . *Acts 15:32*
 - . *Romans 12:8*
 - . *I Thessalonians 5:11*

List all the ways that you could encourage other Christians in the family. Share some ways that you have carried on the ministry of encouragement.

12. When someone in the family has sinned or disappointed us, what should we do according to *Galatians 6:1-2*?

Children Of God

Privileges of Sonship and Relationship With The Father

1. Set Free From Fear
 - a. How big a problem is fear in the life of an average person? How does fear affect you?
 - b. What are some of the things that people fear the most?
 - c. What does the Bible say about God's cure for the fear of death?
(*I Corinthians 15:55*)
 - d. What does the Bible have to say about our fear of future happenings called worry or anxiety (*Matthew 6:25-34*)
 - e. What do we learn from *Romans 8:14-16*?
 - f. What has God given to us to help us stand up to our fears and overcome them? (*II Timothy 1:7*)

2. The second benefit that comes to us from this special relationship of God, our Father, is confidence in the face of adversity.
 - a. What happens to people when they lose their confidence?
 - b. What's the promise we have in *Philippians 2:13*?
 - c. What did the prophet, Jeremiah, learn when he was shut up in the deep pit in the courtyard of a prison and was afraid?
(*Jeremiah 33:2-3*)
 - d. What have we been promised in *Hebrews 13:5-6*?
 - e. What is the source of our confidence? (*Philippians 4:13*) Where do you get your strength?

3. The third benefit that comes from this special relationship with The Father is that He makes us triumph over inferiority.
 - a. Have you ever felt inferior?
 - b. What did these feelings of inferiority already make you do or not do?
 - c. How does low self-esteem affect a person's life?
 - d. Where does destructive behavior come from?
 - e. What is our greatest need really?
 - f. Through the blood of Jesus our self-esteem is bought back (*Galatians 4:5*)

4. What difference does it make if God is your Father?

A STUDY OF HEBREWS

A Study of Hebrews

Jesus and Angels

Hebrews 1:1-14

Small Group Lesson 1

To the Jews of New Testament times, angels were exalted beings. They were especially revered because of their involvement in giving the law at Sinai. In Hebrews 1 Christ is shown to be superior to angels by seven Old Testament quotations showing Him to be God's Son, who is worshipped by angels and though He is God, He is distinguishable from the Father.

1. Who do you believe receives more respect in modern secular culture today, angels or Jesus Christ?

2. How did the writer state that God spoke to people in the past? (1:1)

3. How did God speak to mankind in "these last days"? (1:2)

4. Read Hebrews 1:2, what two statements are made here that demonstrate the superiority of Jesus, the Son?

5. What are the five additional descriptive statements made about Christ in Hebrews 1:3 which continue to exalt Jesus?

6. What did Jesus do after completing His earthly ministry and where is He now? (1:3)

7. How is Jesus superior to angels? (1:5-6; 13-14)

8. How does the writer of Hebrews confirm Christ's deity? (1:8-12)

9. How do you feel when you realize that Jesus, the God and creator of the universe, loves you, died for your sins and desires to live in eternal loving relationship with you?

10. Who can you tell this week about the unique person of Jesus Christ?

A Study of Hebrews

Jesus Understands Temptation

Hebrews 2:1-18

Small Group Lesson 2

1. What trouble have you gotten into from not paying attention?
2. What are the consequences for those who do not pay attention to the Gospel? (Hebrews 2:1-3)
3. How was the salvation of Jesus confirmed by God? (2:3-4)
4. How have you been careless or found yourself drifting away spiritually? (2:1)
5. What have you done to keep focused and aware of God's great salvation?
6. Why did Jesus, who is God, take on the flesh of humanity? (2:14)
7. When Jesus died in the flesh, what did He accomplish for mankind? (2:14-16)
8. What makes Christ supremely qualified to bring salvation and victory over temptation to all who trust Him? (2:17-18)
9. What is the significance of the fact that no trial or temptation can come upon you that Christ does not perfectly understand?
10. Who can you encourage this week with the message that Christ is our sympathetic high priest, who stands ready and willing to help those who are being tempted?

A Study of Hebrews

Don't Harden Your Hearts

Hebrews 3:1-19

Lesson 3

1. Who are some of your heroes?
2. Who are the spiritual heroes of church history?
3. Moses was a spiritual hero for first century Jewish Christians. In what ways are Moses and Jesus similar? (Hebrews 3:1-2)
4. Why is Jesus worthy of more honor than Moses? (3:3-6)
5. In what ways is Christ the greatest spiritual leader and mentor of all time?
6. How is Israel's period of wandering in the wilderness described in the passage? (3:7-9)
7. What were the consequences of the Israelites stubborn disobedience? (3:10-11)
8. What does it mean to harden one's heart and how does it happen? (3:12-15)
9. What happened to the generation of Israelites who rebelled against God in the wilderness? (3:16-19)
10. What can you do this week to keep your heart tender and responsive toward God?

A Study of Hebrews

Jesus, Our Hope and Help

Hebrews 4:1-6:20

Lesson 4

1. What are some of the current ideas the people have regarding how a person can make peace with God?
2. God offers a Sabbath-Rest (that is, His Salvation) to mankind. What must a person do to experience this rest? (Hebrews 4:1-3)
3. What kept some of the Israelites from entering God's promised rest? (4:6)
4. How does the fact that God sees and knows everything about you (actions, words, thoughts, feelings, and attitudes) motivate you to live a holy life? (4:12-13)
5. The author has shown Jesus to be superior to angels (Hebrews 1) and to Moses (Hebrews 3). What important position of spiritual leadership does Jesus forever hold which is superior to its earthly counterpart? (4:14, 5:1, 4-7)
6. An earthly high priest is able to relate to the weaknesses and conditions of those whom he is representing before God. How is Jesus, as our Great High Priest, also able to identify with our temptations and weakness'? (4:15)
7. How are followers of Jesus encouraged to approach God? (4:16)
8. Why do you think suffering was part of God's will for Jesus as our High Priest and what did these sufferings teach Jesus? (5:8)
9. Who is described as the "Source of eternal salvation"? (5:9-10)
10. What does it mean to you that Jesus, your Savior and Great High Priest, has gone through problems and temptations? How will you behave differently because of this truth?

A Study of Hebrews

Confidence to Draw Near to God

Hebrews 7:1 - 8:13

Lesson 5

1. In your opinion, who is the greatest person in history?
2. Who was Melchizedek and how was he associated with Abraham? (Hebrews 7:1-3)
3. What did Abraham do that gave indication of how great Melchizedek was? (7:4)
4. In what ways is Jesus like Melchizedek? (7:2-3, 15-17)
5. By what unusual qualification did Christ become a priest? (7:15-16)
6. In what ways is Jesus unique when compared to the priests of Israel? (7:23-28, 8:1-2, 6)
7. What is Jesus able to do for those who come to God through Him? (7:25)
8. How did Jesus take care of the need to offer sacrifice for sin? (7:27)
9. In what way can Christ's priesthood give you confidence to draw near to God? (8:1-2, 12-13)
10. Offer prayers of praise for WHO Jesus is and prayers of thanksgiving for WHAT He has done as our High Priest.

A Study of Hebrews

Jesus Paid It All

Hebrews 9:1-10:18

Lesson 6

1. What is one thing you would buy at a very high price if paying that price meant you never had to pay for it again?
2. How was Christ's sacrifice for sin more costly than any previous sacrifices and of greater lasting value? (Hebrews 9:11-14)
3. What benefits and provisions are available to believers as a result of Christ's offering? (9:12-15)
4. Read Hebrews 9:16-26. Where is the Most Holy Place that Christ entered to secure our eternal redemption? (9:24-26)
5. Why do you think the author kept emphasizing that Christ's sacrifice was "once for all"? (9:26-28)
6. In what way was the Law of Moses inadequate to deal with our sins? (Hebrews 10:1-4)
7. When Christ came what did He do regarding the value or merit of the sacrifices and offerings required by the law? (10:5-10)
8. What did Christ's single act of dying accomplish for those who would trust in Him? (10:10-14)
9. In what sense have we "been made holy" (10:10) while at the same time "are being made holy?" (10:14)
10. What effect did the sacrifice of Christ have on the way God views our sins and relates to man? (10:15-18)
11. In light of what God has done for you through Jesus Christ, how should you be living?

A Study of Hebrews

Spiritual Perseverance

Hebrews 10:19-39

Lesson 7

1. When in your life did you "hang in there" the longest in the face of an extremely difficult situation?
2. What confidence do we have under the new covenant that we can draw near to God? (Hebrews 10:19-22)
3. Why should Christians have an unshakable hope? (10:23)
4. In light of our new relationship to God how should believers relate to one another?
5. How could someone best spur you on "toward love and good deeds"?
6. Why is rejecting the salvation of Christ so serious? (10:26-31)
7. How does the certainty of God's judgment challenge you?
8. How had the Hebrew Christians previously responded to insult and persecution? (10:32-24)
9. What did the writer remind them of regarding those who persevere? (10:35-39)
10. What can you do this week to encourage a Christian friend to persevere in his or her faith?

A Study of Hebrews

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1-40

Lesson 8

1. Who is the greatest person of faith you have ever known?
2. How does the writer of Hebrews define faith? (Hebrews 11:1)
3. Read Hebrews 11:3-12. What role does faith have in living a life pleasing to God? (11:6)
4. How does faith change a person's focus and perspective? (11:13-16)
5. What key points do you observe in the illustration of Moses? (11:24-29)
6. What were some of the victories enjoyed by many faithful Old Testament believers? (11:30-34)
7. What hardships and sufferings did other faithful Old Testament believers face? (11:35-38)
8. Why do you think the author said that "the world was not worthy of" the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11?
9. How do you think the individuals honored in Hebrews 11 were looked upon by those of their day?
10. With what do you need to trust God even though you can't see what the future holds? How can you show your faith in God this week?

A Study of Hebrews

Dedication Makes the Difference

Hebrews 12:1-13

Lesson 9

1. In your own words define "dedication."
2. What are you dedicated to in your life?
3. What do you learn about the dedication of Jesus Christ from reading Hebrews 12:1-4?
4. What kind of dedication does it take to live the Christian life? (Read Mark 8:34-35)
5. Why is it important to dedicate your life to something worthwhile?
6. In Hebrews 12:2, what is it that you are to do that makes all the difference?
7. In Hebrews 12:1, what does it mean when it says, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles"?
8. What do you need to "throw off" (be it good or bad) that might otherwise hinder you in running the race?
9. What attitude should you have toward the hardships of life that God allows you to face? (12:7-11)
10. What can you do this week to improve your spiritual "race"?

A Study of Hebrews

Warnings and Worship

Hebrews 12:14-29

Lesson 10

1. When have you received a warning that proved extremely helpful?
2. What does it mean to live at peace with all men?
3. What two things does the writer state we should pursue with "every effort"? (Hebrews 12:14)
4. What is holiness and why is it important? (12:14, see also 1 Peter 1:13-16)
5. What warnings and instructions does the writer offer in Hebrews 12:15-17?
6. How was the old covenant dramatic and terrifying even to Moses? (12:18-21)
7. How does the new covenant of Jesus compare? (12:22-24)
8. What additional warning is present in Hebrews 12:25-27?
9. In light of God's goodness toward us how should we worship Him? (12:29,29)
10. How can you heed the warning of this passage and worship God this week "acceptably with reverence and awe"?

A Study of Hebrews

Concluding Exhortations

Hebrews 13:1-25

Lesson 11

1. What final words of advice would you offer a friend who was taking a six-week tour of the United States?

2. In this concluding chapter, the writer of Hebrews offers many final exhortations. In Hebrews 13:1-3 what exhortations are offered regarding Christian love and hospitality?

3. Why should we be careful to entertain strangers? (13:2)

4. What is stated about sexual purity? (13:4)

5. What attitude should we have toward money and material possessions? (13:5)

6. How are you comforted by the fact that Jesus never changes? (13:8)

7. How should Christians relate to their spiritual leaders? (13:7,17)

8. What illustrations did the author use to help the Hebrew Christians resist returning to the old covenant and Judaism? (13:9-14)

9. What sacrifices should we offer? (13:15-16)

10. Which of the exhortations in this chapter do you need to work on the most during this coming week?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit

How To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

1. Read *Acts 1:8*. What is it that every Christian needs in order for their witness for Christ to be effective?
2. In application of our own personal life, where is our Jerusalem? Our Judea? Our Samaria? Our Uttermost? Talk about where our effective witness begins.
3. Talk about some of the things which damage a Christian's witness, whenever the Holy Spirit is not in control of a life.
 - . **Instability** Read *James 1:6-8*. How does doubt affect our prayer life?
 - . **Lacking in love**. Talk about how the Holy Spirit gives us power to love when confronted by hate. (*Romans 5:5*)
 - . **Being overcome and defeated by sin**. Talk about how there is power in sin, but there is greater power in us through the Holy Spirit. Read *Acts 15:7-8*, and see what the Holy Spirit wants to do within us.
 - . **Refusing to be a team player**. Read *Ephesians 5:17-21*. In *verse 21*, what is the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit as we relate to each other?
 - . **Thought question**: What difference does being filled with the Holy Spirit make in our relationship with our family and fellow Christians?
4. In *Ephesians 5:8*. We are commanded to do what?
 - . According to this verse, who is to be in control of our lives?
 - . What or who is in control of your life right now?

FIVE STEPS TO BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. First read *Matthew 5:6*. State the promise. Read *John 7:37-39*. What did Jesus promise would happen when the Holy Spirit was given and would live within us?
2. **Confession and Repentance**
Read *Acts 2:38-39*. In these verses, what did Peter say we had to do before we received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
 - . The Holy Spirit cannot live in a sin-filled slum. If we are going to have the Holy Spirit living within us, what must we do?
 - . In *John 1:9*, what are we promised God will do if we confess?
3. **Present yourself as a servant to serve**
Read *Romans 12:1*, and talk about what it means to give yourself as a living sacrifice.
4. **Tarry in His presence**. Is there anything sweeter than to live in the presence of the Lord Jesus?
5. **Receive**. What is the promise given to us in *Luke 11:9*? What is the promise given to you in *Luke 11:13*?

The Holy Spirit

How To Flow With The Holy Spirit

1. What are the two things that we have to do before we are ready to flow with the Spirit?
2. Examples of flowing with the Spirit in the early part of the Book of Acts.
 - . *Acts 2:14-41* where 3000 were added to the church.
 - . Peter and John on their way up to the Temple healing the crippled beggar. (*Acts 3*)
 - . Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (and finding a boldness), take their stand for the Lord. (*Acts 4:8*)

FOUR THINGS TO DO TO FLOW WITH THE SPIRIT

1. To flow is to stop saying “no” to God

- . Read *John 7:37-39*. What do we learn about flowing water and the Holy Spirit?
- . In *Ephesians 4:30* we read these words: “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” What do you think it means to “grieve” the Holy Spirit? List some ways that people grieve the Holy Spirit.
- . In *1 Thessalonians 5:19* we read these words: “Do not quench the Spirit.” What does it mean to “quench” the spirit? List some ways that people put out the fire of the Spirit.
- . To flow is to cooperate. What do you do when you don’t get your own way?

2. To flow is to grow

- . What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from *John 14:26*?
- . The Holy Spirit is the teacher. What must we be in order to learn?
- . How long has it been since you had to confess to another person that you made a mistake and needed forgiveness?
- . How long has it been since God showed you something you needed to learn and you accepted that and applied it to your life?

3. To flow is to go

- . Read *Acts 8:26-40*.
 - . Who is Philip?
 - . What was going on at Samaria when an angel came and told Philip to go to Ethiopia?
 - . Do you think it was hard for Philip to go?
 - . How did the Holy Spirit prepare the Ethiopian’s heart?
 - . How did the Holy Spirit use Philip and what was the result?
- . Share experiences where you have flowed with the Spirit and when the Spirit said “Go,” you said, “Yes” and what happened?

4. To flow is to glow

- . What do we learn from *2 Corinthians 3:18*?
- . Read *1 Thessalonians 5:17-19*. What are the three things we are to do in the following verses that will guarantee that we will not put out the Spirit’s fire within us? *Verse 16, Verse 17, Verse 18*
- . In *Acts 8* we read about Stephen’s witness and the angry response from the Jews in stoning him to death. From his life what do we learn about flowing and glowing? What impact did this have on Saul of Tarsus?

The Holy Spirit

How To Fellowship With The Holy Spirit

1. What are the things in *2 Corinthians 13:14* we need in our lives?
2. Once you have been filled with the Spirit, why do you think it is easy to fall back the way you were before you were filled? (What is the answer?)
3. Talk about this statement: The Holy Spirit is so much more than one experience. He is a person that we can fellowship with daily. And what difference does this make? After being filled with the Spirit what can cause our relationship to “cool?”

Five reasons why we need daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit

1. **For Companionship** What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit being our companion in *John 14:16-18*?
2. **For Communion** What is the one principle in *John 15:1-8* we are to practice that will bring wonderful results into our lives?
3. **For Communication**
 - . How do we receive the thoughts of God?
 - . Who illuminates the Bible for us to understand?
 - . What do we learn from *John 16:12-15*?
 - . What do we learn about the Holy Spirit’s communicating between us and Father God in *Romans 8:26-27*?
4. **For the good of the partnership**
 - . What are the things we cannot do without the Spirit? (*John 15:5*)
 - . Who is the Senior Partner and who is the Junior Partner?
 - What difference does this make in a business?
 - What difference does this make in a marriage?
 - In a church?
 - . The Holy Spirit wants to give us the love and the power to fulfill our ministry of reconciliation (*2Corinthians 5:17-19*) How does the Holy Spirit help us to be reconciled with those we don’t even like? How does He help others to be reconciled with each other?
5. In order to fellowship with the Holy Spirit daily, what do you need to do?

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit Is Our Guarantee

1. What are some of the items for which you have made a deposit or down payment?
2. What deposit has God given us according to *2 Corinthians 5:1-5*?

What does this deposit guarantee?

3. How have you been tempted to doubt your salvation and God's presence in your life?
4. When you became a Christian, God marked you with a seal. What is that seal? (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

What does the seal of the Holy Spirit indicate according to *2 Corinthians 1:21-22*?

5. Can Satan or anyone else break the seal that God has placed on your life?
6. God has redeemed you through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (God's down payment) guarantees your eternal life. How should you live? (*Ephesians 4:30*)

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Christian Fellowship

Why is Christian Fellowship Important?

1 Corinthians 12:27

1. Why is Christian fellowship important?
2. Why is human fellowship important? (Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
3. What is the purpose of meeting together as believers? (Hebrews 10:24, 25)
4. Why is Christian fellowship important to you?
5. Each believer is given a different but important place in the spiritual body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). Who gives the members their various functions? (1 Corinthians 12:18)
6. What is His desire? (1 Corinthians 12:25)
7. What attitudes lead to disharmony in the body?
(1 Corinthians 12:15-16, 21)
8. Are any of the members of the body unnecessary? (1 Corinthians 12:20-25)
9. If you cut a finger how does it affect your body? How does this illustration relate to the body of Christ when one of its parts is hurting? (1 Corinthians 12:26)
10. What will you do this week to connect with other Christians?

Christian Fellowship

Giving And Receiving Tender Loving Care

1. Read *Acts 20:20* and describe the two-fold method of doing God's work that we call the 20/20 vision.
2. Open the Bible to *Acts 2:42-47* and list the characteristics of the First Century Church.
3. Have several people share one thing that they hope to receive by coming.
4. The New Testament word 'KOINONIA' is translated **fellowship**.
What does it mean in...
 - . *Acts 4:23-24*
 - . *Acts 4:34*
 - . *Acts 5:42*
5. Talk about these three parts of a TLC group and how we will practice them each week in our fellowship group.
 - . Bible study and application
 - . Sharing of life together
 - . Conversational Prayer
 - . When we are practicing these three things, what will be the result in our personal lives?
 - . In the life of our TLC Group?
6. Read in unison, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." *James 5:16*
 - . What are two things we are to do according to this verse?
 - . And what is the promised result?
 - . How are we going to practice this in our group?
7. Someone has said, "**Everybody has a hurt and everyone has a dream.**" Have several people share either a hurt or a dream that they have. (Let them choose which one.)
8. What are some steps to take in order to get hurts healed?
9. Talk about what a dream can do for a person.

Christian Fellowship

The Family Of God

1. Complete the sentence: For a long time I have been thankful for...
2. Just recently I have been thankful for...
3. When I feel thankful, the easiest way for me to express my gratitude is to...
4. Read *Psalm 139:13-16*. What does it mean to be fearfully and wonderfully made?

Does verse 14 say that you are a wonderful work of God?

5. Reflect on *I Peter 1:18:19*. How much was it worth to God to bring you into His family?
6. Now read *I Peter 9-10*. What does it mean to belong to the family of God?
7. What is another reason each of us is of greater value to God? (*I Corinthians 3:16*) Why is it so important to know that God has chosen to make you a temple for His Spirit?
8. How did God show that our value to Him is **not** based on our performance? (*Romans 5:6-8*)
9. How is our worth to God different from how we are valued by the world?
10. Read *John 15:16*. How does it make you feel to know that God has chosen you?
11. What strengths are represented in our TLC group? (Special interests, skills, backgrounds)
12. Explain how you have seen members of a team, family, or crew work together in harmony. We really need each other.

Christian Fellowship Putting Love Into Action

1. What are some of the things a person can do to let you know that they care for you?
2. What are some of the things that cause you trouble in your relationships with your friends and family?
3. Read *Romans 12:9-13*, in the first part of verse 9, what is the high quality that the Apostle Paul says love must have?
4. What causes people to hold back their real feelings and hide behind a mask instead?
5. In the second part of *Romans 12:9*, Paul says for us to do what?
6. When conflicts and problems arise between two people, how can we put this scriptural truth into practice?
7. Read *Romans 12:10* in unison: Love each other with the brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.”
8. Spend a couple of minutes looking at the following illustrations. Put a small “R” by the one that describes the person on your right and a small “L” by the one that describes that person on your left. Start with the person whose birthday is closest to today’s date and let each person have a turn being affirmed by others.

MOTHER HEN – warm, sensitive, sprightly, protective, always on the lookout for the well being of others. PEACEFUL, GENTLE DOVE – serene, calm in the midst of heavy storms. WISE OLD OWL – quiet, thoughtful with the appearance of being in deep contemplation. FRIENDLY ROBIN – cheerful, perky, inquisitive, good-humored with a nesting instinct. HONEY BEE- energetic, quick and tireless worker, nectar gatherer and pollen spreader. LORDLY PEACOCK – colorful, spectator, with a rainbow of plumage. GRACEFUL SWAN – majestic, smooth sailing, unruffled, always in command. WILD EAGLE – untamed, noble, cherishes freedom and jealousy, guards independence. HUNGRY CHEETAH – quiet, unassuming, sleek, on the prowl, usually gets his/her prey. FAITHFUL SHEEP DOG – loyal, dependable, devoted, an abiding companion. INNOCENT LITTLE LAMB – dressed in the skin of a roaring lion with a big rough exterior to cover up a gentle, beautiful child inside. PUPPY DOG- soft, furry, fun loving, playful, irresistible, disarmingly childlike. TIRELESS TURTLE- slow and steady, persistent plodder, willing to stick out his/her neck. PLAYFUL PORPOISE – agile, intelligent, lively, the life of the party. CUDDLY TEDDY BEAR- loveable, warm, playful, brings out the “mother” in all of us.

9. According to *I John 4:9-11*, after we know that God loves us, how are we to express our love to the Lord?
10. What are some ways that we can put our love into action as a TLC group?

Before our next meeting, how can each of us put love into action in our homes or places of employment or neighborhoods, etc.? Let’s be specific: “I can put my love into action by...

Christian Fellowship

Christianity Is A Relationship

1. In your own words, define Christianity.
2. Compared to other religions of the world, what is unique about Christianity?
Who is the one that makes all the difference in our faith?
3. Read *Romans 10:9-13*. How does one enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ?
And, in terms of eternity, what difference does this relationship make?
4. Have someone share their own personal relationship with Jesus. How did you enter into this relationship?
5. In the following verses we see how Christianity is a relationship between a believer and Jesus. In each of the following verses, explain what is taught about the relationship:
 - . “Follow me” (*Matthew 16:24*)
 - . “You must be born again” (*John 3:7*)
 - . “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (*John 10:10*)
 - . “He that believeth on me...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (*John 7:38*)
 - . “For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same as my brother, my sister and my mother” (*Mark 3:35*)
6. How does one continue and maintain the relationship with Jesus?
(*John 15:1-8*)
7. What is the secret of having a good relationship with Jesus?
8. List the results of living in a friendship relationship with Jesus?
9. If we goof up or make mistakes in our relationship with Jesus, what are we to do to get it straightened out according to *I John 1:9*? Share an illustration of how you have put this into practice in your own life and in your group.
10. What does Jesus promise us about our relationship with Him in *John 14:1-3*?

Christian Fellowship

Connecting

1. How large of a problem is loneliness in our modern life?
2. Is the search for meaning a secular one or a religious one? What do you think?
3. With the primary message of the Book of Ecclesiastes, what are some of the things that without being connected to God and other people are meaningless? Who was the writer of Ecclesiastes and why could he speak with such authority?
4. Talk about this statement: “One human being is no human being.”
5. Read together *Ecclesiastes 4:9-11* and share your insights and blessings learned.
6. How does one go about building a network? What is a network? Why does everyone need a network?
7. Who were some of Jesus’ closest friends? Why do we need close friends?
8. Discuss the difference between competition and cooperation and the way that it connects us in meaningful relationships. What results does competition have in marriage?
9. Talk about this statement: “Until you are willing to risk the pain of being hurt, you will not know the true joy of belonging and being connected.”
10. Is it possible to love without being hurt?
11. Talk about how our church exists to help people connect with God and each other. (*John 13:34-35*)
12. Read *John 15:1-17* and answer the following questions.
 - . Does this passage have to do with service or with salvation?
 - . What is the key word in this whole passage?
 - . Discuss *John 15:5* and talk about what it means to you.
 - . What are the results that come from being connected to Jesus and to each other that are spelled out in this passage?

Christian Fellowship

Fellowship With Jesus And His Friends

1. What is one of the scariest experiences you ever had in the dark?
2. How have you overcome your fear of darkness?
3. Read *I John 1:5-10*. What do we learn about God from verse 5? How does this affect our relationship with Him? What is the purpose John had in writing this letter? (*John 1:3-4*)
4. What does it mean in *John 1:7* to “walk in the light”? What results from walking in the light?
5. Contrast what it means to walk in darkness to what it means to walk in the light using the teaching in this entire passage.

WALK IN DARKNESS

WALK IN THE LIGHT

6. Talk about some of the things that break fellowship:
 - . Neglect:
 - . Abuse:
 - . Guilt:
 - . Rebellion:
 - . Disobedience:
 - . Stubbornness:
 - . Unresolved Anger:
 - . Unforgiving Spirit:
 - . Denial:
 - . Critical Spirit:
7. What can make us feel out of fellowship and separated from other Christians?
8. When fellowship has been broken, how can it be restored? (*I John 1:9*)
9. Keys to a close fellowship with Jesus and His people:
10. How do we know that God is a forgiving God? In your opinion, what are two key verses in this chapter?

Christian Fellowship

We Are Family – God Is Our Father

1. What does it mean to you to be a part of the family of God? How does it make you feel?
2. Who belongs to whom in the church family (*Romans 12:5*) What does this mean to how you relate to other people in the family?
3. What are we to do in the family according to *Romans 15:5-7*?
4. Talk about this statement: “We really do need each other.” How is this true in the church family?
5. How important is fellowship in the church family? (*Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 1:9-10*)
6. What happens in a church family when people begin to pray together? (*Acts 4:31-35*)
7. What do these Scriptures teach us about getting together in the family?
 - . *Hebrews 10:25*
 - . *Matthew 8:20*
8. What is to be preached in the church? (*II Corinthians 4:5*)
9. What three principals in the relationship in the family are we to practice according to *Romans 14:19-20*?
 - .
 - .
 - .
10. Talk about these three and make application of them in your own life and church family relationships.
11. Did Christians in the early church ever have strife among them? (*I Corinthians 3:3; II Corinthians 12:20; Philippians 4:2*)
12. How important is unity in the church? Why? (*Ephesians 4:3-6*) Does this mean that we have to always agree with one another? What does it mean?
13. Who is to do the work of ministry and service in the church? (*Ephesians 4:1*)
14. What are we to do in the family for one another in the following verses?
 - . *Hebrews 3:13*
 - . *Acts 15:32*
 - . *Romans 12:8*
 - . *I Thessalonians 5:11*(List all the ways that you could encourage other Christians in the family. Share some ways that you have carried on the ministry of encouragement.)
15. When someone in the family has sinned or disappointed us, what should we do according to *Galatians 6:2*?
16. How should being involved in the work of the ministry effect us, compared to not being involved in the following:
 - . How we feel about ourselves.
 - . How we feel about others.
 - . How we feel about our church.
 - . How we feel about our pastor.
17. How can a person who is not very involved in the church get involved? Talk about this. Also, talk about the statement. “Those who flow in the Spirit grow in the Spirit – they become responsible for God’s work.”

SMALL GROUP LESSONS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Dealing With Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

1. What is temptation?
2. What is true about every temptation you face? (1 Corinthians 10:13)
3. Who can give you victory when you are tempted? (10:13)
4. Does God remove temptation? (10:13)
5. What does God promise to do for you?
6. Is being tempted the same as sinning? Is it wrong to be tempted?(Hebrews 4:15)
7. According to James 1:13-14, where does temptation often come from? (also Galatians 5:16-25)
8. What is the Devil seeking to do when he tempts you? (1 Peter 5:8)
9. What does God do for you regarding temptation? (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
10. Identify a specific area of temptation in your life. What way(s) of "escape" can you use to avoid falling into sin?

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Four Ways To Have Victory In Faith

1. Remember to Remember

- a) What are some of the things God wants me to remember?
- b) Why is it so easy to forget to remember?
- c) How does *Philippians 4:4* help me remember?

2. Let God be God

- a) What are some of the man-sized gods that people have accepted in their minds?
- b) Why is it so difficult to really trust in a god we have created in OUR image?
- c) Read *Isaiah 40:27-29*. Discuss the complaint of verse 27 and Isaiah's answer in verses 28 and 29.

3. Make a Total Commitment

- a) What are some of the trends in our society, which work against our 100% commitment to God's will in our lives?
- b) What is the difference between TRUSTING God and TESTING God when we ask Him "Why?"
- c) How do I renew my commitment to the Lord daily so it will remain strong?

Conclusion:

What does *James 4:8* have to say about what I need to do with the doubts that come to my mind?

When We Dare To Believe

1. Discuss this statement: Belief only has meaning when it has an object.
2. How does the Bible define the word “faith” in *Hebrews 11:1*?
3. What do we learn about faith from *Hebrews 11:6*?
4. According to *Romans 10:17*, where does faith come from?
5. Read *Romans 10:9-13*. Contrast the result of believing in Jesus Christ as opposed to not believing in Him.

What is promised to the man who makes Jesus Christ the object of his believing and his faith?

6. What did Jesus promise would happen if we would believe? (*Mark 9:23*)

What does this power-packed verse mean in your life?

What is the setting for this key verse on believing?

7. How does worry cause people to have unbelief instead of strong faith? (Read *Psalms 37:5* and *Proverbs 3:5-6*)
8. Read *Matthew 7:10*. What are some of the mountains in your life right now?

A Life Changing Decision

1. What does it mean to be a disciple? How does one become a disciple?
2. Read *Mark 1:14-20*.
 - a) List the first disciples that answered the call.
 - b) What did Jesus promise them if they followed?
 - c) What do you think it meant to them to follow Jesus?
3. Discuss some recent examples of leadership that we have witnessed.
4. What are some characteristics that you admire in great leaders?
5. For what reasons do we consider Jesus Christ to be the world's greatest leader?
6. Who was the greatest possibility thinker?
 - a) What was it about Jesus' life that should have made him a negative, impossibility thinker?
 - b) What did He say in *Mark 10:27*?
 - c) Where did Jesus get His power? See *Matthew 28:18* and *John 3:34*.
7. Discuss how Jesus makes it happen.
8. In what ways did Jesus have influence?
9. In contrast to leaders today that come and go on the scene of history. Jesus lasted because He had integrity. How important is it to have integrity?
10. What was unusual about Jesus teaching and modeling that leadership meant being a servant? How does this contrast to our world in the way that people do things today? (*Mark 10:45*)
11. How important is it to answer the call and follow Jesus? What has it meant to you to your life to follow Jesus?
12. What is Jesus asking you to do right now in your following of Him?

Assurance Of Forgiveness

What happens if we slip and fail as Christians? Does that mean we are not “making it”? Let’s look at how we can deal with sin and be assured that God has forgiven us.

1. What is God’s promise to us concerning temptation and sin? (*I Corinthians 10:13*)
2. If we still fail and succumb to sin, should we give up trying to be a Christian?
3. Read *I John 1:9*. What does God want you to do about your sins?
 - a. What does it mean to confess?
 - b. In His act of forgiving us, how is God described?
 - c. What else does God do when you confess your sins?
4. Read *I John 1:8, 10*. What should we recognize about ourselves?
5. What should be our attitude toward sin?
 - a. *Psalms 139:23-24*
 - b. *Psalms 38:18*
 - c. *Psalms 51:1-3*
6. What should accompany our confession of sin, according to *Proverbs 28:13*?
7. How is God described in *Psalms 86:5*?
8. According to *Ephesians 1:7*, on what basis are you forgiven?
9. What does *Hebrews 10:12* say about Christ’s sacrifice?
10. Read *Hebrews 10:17*. Why is it foolish to continue to feel guilty about sin? (See also *Psalms 103:11,12*)
11. How should we respond to Satan when he still tries to bring guilt and accusation upon us? Read *Revelation 12:10-11*.
12. According to *Ephesians 4:32*, what should be our attitude toward those who have offended us? Why?

If there are some areas in your life that yet may be hindering your fellowship with God (some sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness) take time right now to confess it. Claim the promise of *I John 1:9*. Thank God for His cleansing and forgiveness.

Growing Up Is A Choice

1. How does physical maturity differ from spiritual maturity?
2. Discuss this statement: “ You are young only once, but you can be immature indefinitely!”
3. What is the relationship between growth and change? Whose responsibility is it to change?
4. What is to be the goal of every Christian according to these verses?
 - . *Ephesians 4:15*
 - . *I Peter 2:2-3*
 - . *Hebrews 6:1*
5. What does the example of young Jesus teach us in *Luke 2:52*?
6. What is the down side of continuing in spiritual immaturity?
 - . *I Corinthians 3:1-3*
 - . *Ephesians 4:14*
7. How does spiritual immaturity affect the church?

How does spiritual immaturity affect the individual?

How does spiritual immaturity affect our community?
8. What are specific ways we can “put away” childish things? (*I Corinthians 13:11*)

How would you describe childish behavior?
9. You can see a person’s true character when they do not get what they want or when they are not the center of attention. How well do people with childish behavior cooperate?

Discuss this statement: “Maturity comes from making commitments to things that are greater than we are.” Make a list of the things that are worth making commitments to that bring maturity to life.

Just Say, Hallelujah!

1. What do you picture in your mind when you hear the word, “Hallelujah”?

What does it mean?

2. The first time Hallelujah occurs in the Old Testament is in *Psalms 104:35*. What is the theme of this verse?
3. The first time Hallelujah occurs in the New Testament is in *Revelation 19:1*. What is the theme of *Revelation 19:1-9*?
4. Why do you think there is such rejoicing in heaven when Babylon is destroyed? (*Revelation 18*)
5. Do we see evidences of Babylonian influence in today’s society? What are they? (*Revelation 18; 19:1-2*)
6. Have you ever felt like God doesn’t care about all the evil today? What does *2 Peter 3:3-13* say about this?
7. What is the good news of the statement “Our God reigns?” (*Revelation 19:6*)
8. God is throwing a big celebration in the heavens. Who gets to go? (*Revelation 19:7-9*)
9. Share a “Hallelujah” victory you have had recently in your life because God truly does reign.

Down, But Not Out

- Which kitchen utensil best describes your life?

<input type="checkbox"/> Spatula	<input type="checkbox"/> Pitcher	<input type="checkbox"/> Blender
<input type="checkbox"/> Kettle	<input type="checkbox"/> Can opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt shaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Toaster	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
- Read *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*. In *verse 4*, who is the god of this age and how does he blind people to the good news of Jesus?
- How does the “light” of *verse 6* relate to the “veil” in *verse 3*?
- How was your mind veiled to the gospel before you became a believer? What changed that for you? Do you still have a veil about some things in your life?
- Read *2 Corinthians 4:7-12*. Let’s define two words...what is this “treasure” we have? ...what is the “cracked pot”? ...And what is the purpose according to Paul (compare *verse 7 to 3:5*)
- Re-read *verses 8 and 9* from a different translation and write a brief title that describes them. Are life’s experiences any different for the Christian than for the non-Christian? Are the results of these experiences any different for Christians than for non-Christians?
- How have you experienced *2 Corinthians 4:8-9* recently? What has been the result and/or what are you trusting the Lord to do?
- In what way(s) can your witness (your “light”), be stronger for the Lord during difficult situations?
- Read *2 Corinthians 4:13-15*. What does this paragraph tell us about the nature of the Christian life?
- Read *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*. What difference does this fact make in your life today?

God, Our Heavenly Father

1. What difference does it make if God is my Heavenly Father?
2. What kind of gifts does God want to give to you in your life? (Read *Matthew 7:11* and *James 1:17*)

Make a list of the gifts that God wants to give to you.

3. What is the most special gift that The Father wants you to have? (*Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:8, John 16:7*)

Do you have this special One who is God's choice gift for you?

4. How do we honor the Hallowed Name of our Father? How do we bring glory to Him? How do we fulfill our destiny? By His ingeniousness and plan we have been created. By His love and precious blood of His Son we have been restored as children and given the place in the family. How do we bring glory to the Father?

How do you bring glory to your Father God?

5. What do we learn about the Father from the parable of the Prodigal Son?

What does this teach us about our relationship with God?
(*Luke 15:23-24*)

6. Think about this: We do not first call God "Father"; God first calls us "children".

Born Of The Spirit

1. Who is Jesus?
 - ...According to the media (TV)
 - ...According to the history books (HB)
 - ...According to the average person (AP)
 - ...According to you (*)
 - ___ Greatest man who ever lived.
 - ___ Founder of Western religion.
 - ___ Nice guy; helped people.
 - ___ Healer of physical infirmities.
 - ___ Teacher of radical life style.
 - ___ Birth and death - two holidays
 - ___ Son of God; sacrificed for sin.
 - ___ A myth, made up by disciples.
2. Read *John 3:1-2*. Why did Nicodemus come to talk with Jesus at night?
3. Who is this Jesus, according to Nicodemus?
4. In *John 3:3*, when Jesus explained that he needed to be “born again”, what happened to Nicodemus?
5. How clearly did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was saying in *John 3:4*?
6. In the conversation that followed, what do you think is the real issue?
7. How did Jesus explain what it means to be born again in *John 3:5-8*? What is the water? What is the Spirit?
8. How does the wind help explain the new birth in *John 3:8*?
9. Read *John 3:9-15*. What is Jesus referring to when he reminded Nicodemus of the “snake in the desert?” (*Numbers 21:4-9*)
10. Read *John 3:16-18*. What is the condition for obtaining eternal life? (Circle one)
 - a. Feeling sorry for yourself.
 - b. Feeling sorry for your sins.
 - c. Living a clean life.
 - d. Going to church every week.
 - e. Receiving God’s free gifts.
11. What do you learn about God (His personality and His plan) in *John 3:16-18*?
12. What do you learn about mankind in these verses?
13. In what ways are you like Nicodemus? In what ways have you been like him in the past?
14. How do you think Nicodemus came away from this midnight conversation with Jesus? (*John 19:38-42*).
15. What do you remember about being “born again”? How did it happen?
16. What does it mean to you to BELIEVE in the Son of God?

Growing Up

1. If spiritual growth and maturity cannot be measured by the calendar, how can we know if we are making progress?
2. From your own experiences, list some things you expect children and adults to be doing:
3. Read *Hebrews 5:11-14* and list some things you expect young Christians and older Christians to be doing:
4. There are many things about Father God that help us grow up to be strong and more and more like Jesus, our elder brother. We will discuss only three.
 - . God loves me...*I John 4:16-18*. Discuss how this helps us grow up.
 - . God changes not...*James 1-17*. How does this part of God's nature help us grow?
 - . God is active... *Joshua 1:6-9*. How does this contribute to my spiritual growth?
5. When Father God speaks to us, what is His ultimate purpose?
6. In your growing up years at home, what memories do you have of times when you did not understand why your parents said "yes" or "no" to certain things?
7. List a few of the strong feelings we have when we know Father God is speaking to us.
8. Read together *Hebrews 5:14* again, "Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."
 - . What is the "solid food" the writer is referring to?
 - . Who are the "mature"?
 - . How have they been "trained"?
9. We are instructed to "eat right and grow right" Discuss the old proverb: "Pictures of food cannot satisfy a hungry person."
10. Listed below on the left side are six character qualities with their definitions. However, many times when we want to experience growth and development in some area of our lives we focus our attention and energy on the things listed on the right side! Why is that not going to produce growth? What should we be doing instead?

LOVE	Definition: "Giving to another's basic needs without having personal reward as my motive." <i>I Corinthians 13:3</i>	SELFISHNESS
GENTLENESS	Definition: "Expressing personal care appropriate to another's emotional need." <i>I Thessalonians 2:7</i>	HARSHNESS
ORDERLINESS	Definition: "Preparing myself and my surroundings so that I will achieve the greatest efficiency" <i>I Corinthians 14:40</i>	DISORGANIZED
HOSPITALITY	Definition: "Cheerfully sharing myself to give spiritual refreshment to others God brings into my life." <i>Hebrews 13:2</i>	LONELINESS
DILIGENCE	Definition: "Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it." <i>Colossians 3:23</i>	LAZINESS
SECURITY	Definition: Structuring my life around what is eternal and cannot be destroyed or taken away." <i>John 6:27</i>	ANXIETY

Getting A Hold On God's Kingdom

1. Discuss and define: "Getting a hold of God's Kingdom"
2. Define the word "Kingdom":
3. What do you think of when you hear the word "Kingdom"?
4. Look up *Romans 14:17*. What is Paul's definition of God's Kingdom? Talk about each of the elements. How do they flow from each other?
5. Look up the following Scriptures. Discover the truth and talk about the application:
 - . *Matthew 5:3*
Truth
Application
 - . *Matthew 25:34-35*
Truth
Application
 - . *Luke 9:62*
Truth
Application
 - . *John 3:3*
Truth
Application
 - . *Acts 14:22*
Truth
Application
 - . *James 2:5*
Truth
Application
6. Kingdoms are about authority. Look up the following Scriptures and find out what makes it tick.
 - . *Daniel 2:44*
 - . *Mark 9:1*
 - . *Acts 2:2,3,4*
 - . *I Corinthians 4:20*
 - . *Revelations 11:17*
7. What difference does God's Kingdom make in your life?
8. How do you bring God's Kingdom principles into:
 - . Your home
 - . Your school
 - . Your job
 - . Your ministry
9. How would you explain God's Kingdom to an un-churched friend?

New Beginnings – Overcoming Failures

1. Did any Bible Character ever fail in their life?

Give some examples: Was God able to use them?

What do we learn from this?

2. Discuss the statement: “The sin is not in failing, it is in not doing something about it”

What can we do about it? (*I John 1:5 – 2:2*) What do we learn from these verses?

- . *I John 1:5-6*
- . *I John 1:7*
- . *I John 1:8, 10*
- . *I John 1:9*
- . And even when we do slip back, we still have a way out.
I John 2:1-2
- . And confirmed. *Isaiah 43:25*

3. What is the key that unlocks the process of overcoming failure? It is easy for us to talk about ‘goals of performance’ that we may not reach but what about the very personal ones? The failures in our attitudes, our behaviors, our relationships. How are you doing as:

- . A mate?
- . A parent, a child?
- . In your work?
- . In your ministry?
- . As a friend?
- . Spiritual growth?

Five Steps To Victory Over Failure

1. Admit your failure: First to yourself- why is this important?

Next to God (*I John 1:9*)

And to others (*James 5:16*)

Discuss how your future success is tied directly to your willingness to admit your specific point of failure.

2. Ask God for His forgiveness.

And accept God's forgiveness.

3. Be prepared to live with and to overcome the consequences of your failures.

Remember: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

4. Learn from your failures.

5. Put your failures behind you, look forward – set your vision on victory in the future.

Principals To Free Us Up!

1. Begin a battle you expect to win.
 - . *Romans 6:4-7.*
What is the reality of life when we accept Christ?

What happens to our old self?

What do we become?
 - . *Galatians 2:20 & Philippians 1:6.*
Would Christ begin something He would not finish?
2. Pray – How are we like those who prayed for Peter in prison?
 - . *Philippians 1:9.*
Who needs to pray for whom?
Why is it easy to pray for someone's physical needs but not for their spiritual needs?
Do we allow pride to get in the way of others praying for our spiritual needs? How so?
3. Obey
 - . How can we be like prisoners of war, who after the war is over refuse to believe they can or should leave the prison?
4. Believe in God's power. (*Acts 12:11, 14-15*)
 - . Read *Romans 8:37.*
In what things are we more than conquerors?

Perceiving The Deceiving

1. When was the last time something turned out to be something other than what you thought it was?
2. In what way is T.V. deceiving?
3. Are there times when you begin to recognize a deception you've been living in for a long time and get very angry about it? How can that anger be used in a right way? (*Acts 3:4-12*)
4. List 3 things that have good influence over our lives; three things with bad influence.
5. How does good influence help? How can bad influence deceive?
6. Satan took ground on the Island of Cyprus. How does he take spiritual ground from Christians?

RECLAIMING STOLEN GROUND

1. Revoke the past consent. (*I John 1:9*)
 - . How does sin open the door for deception in our lives?
 - . Are we able to be aware of all our sins or faults? (*Psalms 19:12-13, 90:8, 129:23-24*)
How do we get involved with sins in our lives and not even know they are there?
 - . Once we know or wake up to our hidden faults what can we do with them?
2. Reprove the works of darkness (*Ephesians 5:11*)
 - . Have you ever known somebody who refused to get involved with something you're doing because of their convictions? What does this do to you?
 - . Why is changing moral habits so difficult at times?
3. Remove provisions for the flesh. (*Romans 12:14*)
 - . How valuable would it be to go through our lives and remove all those things that are tempting us to sin?
 - . Discuss this statement, "When it comes to temptations its better to give up and give in then try and resist." Is this being pushed upon us?
4. Renew our minds with truth.
 - . Discuss these following statements:
Truth clears up confusion.
Truth gives you security.
Truth is a protection.
Truth gives you a clear path for the future.
Truth prepares you to stand against a lie.
 - . Where is the Bible as far as primary source for truth in our nation? In our lives?
 - . How can we change this?

How To Be Renewed And Restored

1. Share a recent experience of how you have been physically, emotionally, or spiritually renewed or restored.
2. How often do we need renewal?
3. What do you find is the greatest “vehicle”, “avenue”, “source”, or “method” of renewal in your life? Why?
4. Read *Psalms 51:10*. What is it that initiates renewal in our lives, who is it that does the renewing and on what level does deep renewal take place?
5. Read *Isaiah 40:31*. According to this passage, what is the condition for renewal in our life? What is it that you are going through today for which you can claim this passage and its beautiful promise? Place your name in the place of each pronoun to personalize the promise and read it again.
6. Read *Romans 12:2*. To what is Paul referring when he writes, “the pattern of this world”? What would that mean today in our world? What are some of the results of allowing the world to squeeze us into its mold?
7. What does it mean to renew our mind and how are we to do it?
8. How does spending time daily in prayer and in praise throughout the day renew one’s mind? Share a personal experience.
9. What truth do we learn from *Colossians 3:10* about renewal?
10. According to *II Corinthians 5:17*, what is the ultimate depth of renewal and what are the results?
11. Conclude this study by reading the *Psalms 23* and discuss this relating to your life personally the various portions of this Psalm from which you today find renewal and restoration.

Miracle Of Forgiveness

1. Have you ever held a grudge on someone? What negative effects did it have on your life?
2. Read *Psalms 130:1-4*. What is the main truth that we learn from this passage?
3. An unforgiving spirit may take the form of resentment, bitterness or hate. Define each of these three:
 - a. Resentment:
 - b. Bitterness:
 - c. Hate:
4. Read *Ephesians 4:22-32*. What does Paul have to say about an unforgiving spirit and what are we to do?
5. How can an unforgiving spirit hurt you more than it hurts another person?
 - a. What it can do to you physically?
 - b. How can it cause you to send out a negative message?
 - c. How can it make you an emotional slave to another person?
6. In *Hebrews 12:15* it warns us to watch for the root of bitterness. What does this cause in our life? What is the cure for bitterness?
7. How does *Galatians 6:7* apply to having an unforgiving spirit?
8. Discuss this statement: “Without forgiveness there are no enduring relationships.” Why is this true?
9. When we refuse to give what does it do the grace and forgiveness of God in our own life? What did Jesus mean when He said, “Unless you forgive others, your Heavenly Father will not forgive you”?
10. What are some guidelines in asking for forgiveness?
 - a. How soon should we do it?
 - b. Should we talk about our own sins or the other persons?
11. Discuss the story and testimony of Joseph in the Old Testament. Read *Genesis 50:20* and tell what this verse means in our lives.
12. In *Matthew 9:1-4* before Jesus healed the man physically, what did He heal him from?
 - a. What was really making him sick?
 - b. What unforgiving spirit is making you sick inside?